

Education

Master of Public Health, Epidemiology & Applied Biostatistics Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health, New York, NY Focuses: environmental epidemiology, data science methods	2018 - 2020 GPA: 4.0
Bachelor of Science, Neuroscience Baylor University, Waco, TX Focuses: neuroanatomy & physiology, community-based health research, statistics	2011 - 2015 GPA: 4.0

Scholarships and Honors

1st prize - best research poster, Mt. Sinai Clinical Climate Change Conference	2020
1st prize - research presentation, Columbia Epidemiology Master's Student Day	2019
Delta Omega Honor Society	2019
Wyman Scholar, Columbia University (full tuition: \$80,000)	2018
Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society	2014
Glennis McCrary Goodrich Scholarship Award for International Research (\$3,500)	2013
Regent's Gold Scholar, Baylor University (full tuition: \$138,000)	2011

Current & Previous Research

Fine particulate matter, extreme heat events, and congenital heart defects Department of Epidemiology, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health	Nov. 2019 - present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supervisor: Dr. Jeanette Stingone• Investigate relationships between maternal exposures (extreme heat events, PM_{2.5}) and congenital heart defects• Analyses supported by the National Birth Defects Prevention Study (NBDPS) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC)	
Climate variation and under-5 acute malnutrition in Bangladesh International Research Institute for Climate & Society, Earth Institute, Columbia University	Feb. 2019 - present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supervisors: Dr. Hannah Nissan and Dr. Robbie Parks• Investigate associations between climate events and child anthropometry at seasonal and sub-seasonal scales• Contribute biostatistical and epidemiological skillset to team of top Columbia researchers for ACToday (read more)	
Water quality, food security, and under-5 nutritional status in rural Kenya Baylor University, Waco, TX	Jan. 2013 - May 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supervisor: Prof. Lisa Baker, MD PhD• Epidemiologic study of child diet, water quality, and anthropometry in indigenous Luo community• Results used to inform NGO-led water and nutrition interventions utilized by 1,000+ in Nyakach, Kenya	

Teaching & Professional Experience

Graduate Teaching Assistant Departments of Biostatistics & Epidemiology, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health	Aug. 2019 - Dec. 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teaching assistant for graduate-level Quantitative Methods module in Columbia MSPH's CORE Curriculum• Instructed 25 students once weekly in introductory biostatistics and epidemiology	

Food Systems Specialist**Aug. 2015 - Jul. 2018**

Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development, Honolulu, HI

- Coordinated interisland network of 20+ grassroots organizations in indigenous health and environmental justice
- Wrote successful grant proposals and contracts totaling \$600,000+ for community food systems work
- Two-term AmeriCorps VISTA and subsequent full-time staff member

Lead Program Evaluator**May 2015 - Aug. 2015**

Our Children, Their Nutrition

- Led monitoring and evaluation efforts of childhood nutrition education program in low-SES communities
- Contributed to research presented at APHA 2015 Annual Meeting

Development Intern, Africa Bureau**Jun. 2014 - Aug. 2014**

United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Washington, DC

- Provided technical and capacity building support to USAID Country Development Officers throughout Southern Africa
- Created briefing materials for high-level initiatives, including President Barack Obama's Young African Leaders Initiative

Presentations

Simmons W, Nissan H (2020). *Climate variation and anthropometric indicators of under-5 nutrition: Bangladesh, 1990-2006*. Poster, 2nd Annual Conference on Clinical Climate Change. Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. New York, NY. First prize.

"Food, climate, and environment: What's next?" (2019). Panel moderator and organizer. Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. New York, NY.

Simmons W, Nissan H (2019). *Exploring associations between climate and under-5 nutritional status in Bangladesh, 1990-2006*. Invited presentation, Epi Master's Student Day. Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, New York, NY. First prize.

Simmons W, Baker L (2016). *Clean water, food security, or protein? A study of growth among children in rural western Kenya*. Contributor to presentation, 13th Annual Global Health & Innovation Conference. Yale University, New Haven, CT.

Skills

Languages, Software, & Packages

Proficient: R (tidyverse), SAS, SQL (Access, MySQL)

Familiar: MATLAB, QGIS, R Shiny

Certifications

HIPAA, CITI Human Subjects

ToolsFamiliar: Git/DVCS, \LaTeX